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Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 271 Jamadi ul Awal 29, 1445 AH Monday December 02, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

#### Info Minister slams PTI for spreading false propaganda Tarar accuses PTI's Murad Saeed of leading armed protesters, hiding in CM House Peshawar

Information Minister says there is a concerted effort to create a false narrative around the protests; Dares PTI to show video evidence of straight firing by LEAs on protestors; Govt followed IHC order to ensure law and order during PTI protest: Secretary Interior

eral Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to share the video evidence with the public which could prove that the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) had opened straight firing on its protestors who descended on Islamabad a

video evidence that show how a person from the protest told the protestors to open indiscriminate firing on the police. Now, I challenge the PTI to share one the direct firing on protestvideo of straight firing or live ammunition by the LEAs which brought professional to cover up their maintail tion and political failure from the so called final call.

the minister while addressing a news conference.

tary for Interior Khurram couple of days ago. the PTI protestors used guns, shells and marbles the PTI protestors used on their arrest from the against the LEAs.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fed- against the protestors," said criminals and Afghan Nationals to the protest to ensure that there would be The minister was a bloodshed in the whole Tarar on Sunday dared the flanked by Federal Secre- city. He said Murad Saeed, who was hiding in the Ali Agha, IG Islamabad Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Chief Minister House, was Chief Commissioner also present in the protest Islamabad Ali Randhawa. and led an armed group that Different videos were wielded guns, shells and palyed during the press glass marbles which were conference that shown how recovered from them later

> No personnel of the Tarar categorically re- LEA is allowed for the live jected the propaganda being peddled by the PTI on ammunition, he said, adding that the fake videos and the social media regarding pictures were being created to cover up their humilia-

frontline



President Zardari em-

and Khyber districts. They commended

The president and prime minister paid tributes to Shaheed Captain Muhammad Zohaibuddin soldier Iftikhar Hussain, who were martyred during the opera-

their sacrifices, President Secretariat Press Wing and PM Office Media Wing, in separate press releases said.

phasized that the sacrifices of the martyrs for the country's security would not be in vain and that the entire nation would remember the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for the motherland.

the elevation of the martyrs' souls and patience for their families.

The prime minister prayed for the high ranks of the Shaheed personnel of the Pakistan Army and a grant of patience for the bereaved families.

The fight against terrorism would continue till the complete eradication of this menace from the country, the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

The officers and personnel of the Pakistan Army were protecting the country from its enemies without caring for their lives, he added.

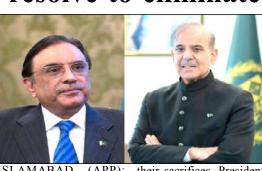
The prime minister said the entire nation, including him, was proud of the brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army adding the Pakistani nation could never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs.

He said the nefarious designs of terrorists and enemies of the country to spread chaos in Pakistan



Mr. Attaullah Tarar Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Na-

#### tional Heritage, addressed a press conference in Islamabad. President, PM reaffirm



ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday praised the security forces for their successful operations in Bannu

their bravery for eliminating eight Khawarij terrorists and arresting eleven others injured in two separate operations.





KARACHI: A large numbers of people are wearing Sindh traditional dresses as they holding celebration demonstration on the occasion of Sindhi Culture Day held at Karachi press club.

zation and culture, broth-

erhood, mutual tolerance,

brotherhood, the spirit of

serving each other is the dis-

tinguishing feature of the

views in one of his state-

ments on the occasion of

Sindhi Culture Day. Minis-

ter Energy congratulated all

Pakistanis on Sindh Culture Day. He said that Culture

Day is a day to preserve our

traditions, Sindhi, Topi

Ajarak day symbolizes brotherhood, unity and

peace. Nasir Shah said that

Sindh is taking more steps to

promote the culture of Sindh.

He expressed these

people of province.

Sindh is the land of Sufis,

which is of unique importance

for its ancient civilization

and culture: Nasir Shah

The spirit of brotherhood, mutual

tolerance, fraternity, serving each other

is the distinguishing feature of the

people of province: Minister Energy

LARKANA: Political Secretary to PPP Chairman.

MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro addresses during the

celebration rally on the occasion of Sindhi Cul-

tural Day, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

**Independent Report** 

KARACHI: Provincial

Minister of Energy and

Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that

Sindh the land of Sufis, is

of unique importance in

terms of its ancient civili-

#### measures to maintain law and order in the federal capital, says the handout issued by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday, sharing all the details of the protest fiasco orchestrated by Paership and its founder. kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

ernor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

**Ministry of Interior** 

shares details of protest

(PTI).

The High Court directed the Interior Minister to engage with the PTI leadership in this regard, says the handout adding that given the sensitivity of the Belarusian President and Chinese high-level del-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Islam-abad High Court

(IHC) on November 21 di-

rected the federal govern-

ment to take all necessary

fiasco orchestrated by PTI egation visit, PTI was initially asked to postpone the protest but on their persistence to continue with the protest, PTI was subsequently offered Sngjhani area as a designated location. In this regard, out of the ordinary and at odd timings, meetings were also allowed between PTI lead-

KARACHI: Under trainee Executive Engineers of WAPDA meeting with Gov-

On the contrary and inspite of the extraordinary concessions extended, PTI violated the court's orders blatantly and instead of holding protest at designated place (Sangjani), unlawfully breached entry towards the Red Zone of



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar is lighting traditional oil lamp at Sri Lanka stall during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.

#### Shazia Marri highlights PPP's unparalleled sacrifices for democracy

HYDERABAD (APP): Central Information Secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and former Federal Minister, Shazia Atta Marri, emphasized the unmatched sacrifices of PPP's leadership and workers for democracy, stating that such dedication has no parallel worldwide. She expressed these

views while talking to the media in Sanghar.

Shazia Marri de-scribed PPP as a party rooted in ideology, with its members steadfastly adhering to the vision and manifesto of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto since the party's inception.

"Our workers have aging public property.

sacrificed their lives for the country and the nation. We will never allow Pakistan to fall into the hands of ter-

rorist organizations or in-

dividuals with extremist

ideologies," she asserted.

Referring Pakistan's democratic val-ues, she said, "We are democratic people who respect all political entities, but we cannot tolerate any attempts to undermine the state by force". She contrasted PPP's historical protests, highlighting the peaceful approach adopted even during the judicial execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, where PPP workers protested without dam-

#### PM attends funeral prayer of Shaheed Capt. Zohabi-ud-Din LAHORE (APP): Prime

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday attended the funeral prayer of Captain Muhammed Zohaib-ud-Din Shaheed. The funeral prayer was attended by Corps Commander Lahore Lt. General Syed Aamer Raza, senior civil and military officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister met with the family of shaheed captain and expressed his condolence He paid tribute to shaheed Captain Muhammed Zohaib-ud-Din who had fought valiantly with Khawarij terrorists, adding that the entire nation was proud of his sacrifice and saluted

Shaheed captain had embraced martyrdom on November 30 during the conduct of an intelligence based operation in Shagai, Dis-trict Khyber. Three Khawarij were sent to hell while two others were ar-

#### Dar to represent Pakistan at ECO meeting in Iran

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will leave for Iran tomorrow to attend 28th meeting of Council of Ministers of Economic Cooperation Orga-

In his address at the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister will reiterate Pakistan's commitment to ECO charter and highlight potential of greater connectivity in region through development of rail and road networks, liberalization of visa regimes and simplification of border proce-

Ishaq Dar will also reiterate Pakistan's concerns over hostilities in the Middle East, endangering the regional peace and security. He will sign the Charter for ECO Clean Energy Center.

The Deputy Prime Minister will hold meetings with participating ministers and other dignitaries on the sidelines of the ministerial meet-

#### PTI calls for full access to party founder in jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political committee issued an official statement on Sunday after a crucial meeting, calling for full access to party founder Imran Khan due to concerns over his health and safety.

The committee highlighted that Imran Khan's well-being is a matter of grave concern, with grow ing public apprehensions. It called for immediate restoration of access for his fam ily, legal team, and party officials to ensure transparency and accountability.

#### Oil spilled from Pakistan Refinery's pipeline at service road of Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Pa kistan Refinery's pipeline on the service road in the front of Karachi's Seaview had been damaged by spilling furnace oil. According to sources,

the oil spilled on service road and residential building as a result the service road had been sealed. The oil pumping had

been halted on the information of spilling from the damaged Îine.

Pakistan Refinery officials stated that the team had been sent on the spot

for the repairing of leakage.

The investigation of the incident had also been

# brotherhood is identity of Sindh: CM KARACHI (APP): Chief which I consider an honor.

Peace, love and

Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that the identity of Sindh was peace, love and brotherhood.

Day, he said that the nations were defined by their cul-

great Sindhi civilization living all over the world.

The Chief Minister said that the hospitality was an integral tradition of Sindh. He said, 'I am proud

that I was born in Sindh, the land of Sufis.' He said, 'I and my family had frequent opportunities to serve Sindh,

Murad was of the view that celebrating the great civilization of Sindh was always a joy.
'We are determined to

On the Sindh Culture makeing Sindh a cradle of peace, and bring back the great era of Sindhi civilization, 'he remarked.

He wished Day of He appealed to the Culture to the heirs of the youth to get modern education, make the book a friend and adopt skills.

He urged them to help each other and support the government in building a great Sindh

He further said that today was a day of joy, and we must pledge to empower our mothers, sisters and daughters



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends funeral of Captain Muhammed Zohaib-ud-Din Shaheed.

#### Governor pledges to protect, promote cultural values of Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Culture Day, he wished a Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Day to the people of the Sunday pledged to protect province. and promote the cultural values, traditions, and language of the province.

He said, 'I congratulate the people of the prov-He said, 'We pledge

very happy Sindh Culture

He said that on Sindhi today to promote the cul-Culture Day, the people of ture of Sindh province and the province wear Sindhi spread it around the world.' caps and ajrak to express their love for their culture.

#### Bilawal lauds security forces for eliminating eight terrorists in operations

Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has lauded the security forces for eliminating eight terrorists in operations conducted in Bannu and Khyber dis-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House on Sunday, he said that the successful operation against terrorists was a source of pride for the nation.

Paying tribute to Cap-

SLAMABAD (INP): tain Muhammad Chairman of Pakistan Zohaibuddin and Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain, who embraced martyrdom during the operation, he said, the terrorists responsible for the martyrdom of these brave sons of the nation will face a dreadful end.

Bilawal Bhutto offered prayers for the elevation of ranks of the martyred soldiers and expressed heartfelt condolences to their families, praying for their strength and patience in this time of



Federal Minister For Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, talking to the Media persons during the Convocation ceremony at National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Chiniot

#### Officer among 2 soldiers martyred, 8 terrorists killed in separate KP operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed eight Khwarij terrorists and others 9 injured while a captain and a soldier embraced martyrdom in two separate operations conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from November 29 to December 1.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Baka Khel, Bannu District on the reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly killed five khwarij, while nine khwarij got injured," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news re-

However, during the operation, Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain (Age: 29 years, resident of: District Jhang), having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat. In another opera-

tion conducted in general area Shagai, Khyber District, three Khwarij were sent to hell, while two were apprehended by the security forces," it further

During an intense fire exchange, Captain Muhammad Zohaib Ud Din (Age: 25 years, resident of: District Lahore), who was leading his troops from the front, fought bravely, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat.

# Daily soice of Masse Independent

# Flying ban reversal

The European Aviation Safety Agency has finally lifted the ban on flights of the national flag carrier to and from Europe after more than four vears. Nevertheless, it will take months and potentially heavy investment in new planes before the airline can resume operations on lucrative European routes. The ban on PIA flights to the UK is yet to be revoked.

Still, celebrations are in order since the EU ban has been lifted after repeated failures of the Civil Aviation Authority since 2020 to address EASA's safety concerns. The European aviation watchdog has apparently "re-established sufficient confidence in the [CAA's] oversight capabilities". The decision to approve the resumption of commercial operations was based on the CAA's "significant efforts"

However, EASA clarified that the EU states would continue monitoring through the 'prioritisation of ramp inspections of the air carriers certified in Pakistan and their crew to ensure compliance with aviation regulations and standards and identify safety concerns and trends before they become a threat"

Besides causing reputational damage, the ban, which came in the wake of a fatal PIA plane crash in Karachi, followed by a scandal over alleged fake pilot licences sparked by the claims of the then aviation minister, has cost the airline an annual revenue loss of nearly Rs40bn. It was also one of the several reasons for the government's failed attempt to privatise the national carrier a month ago when only one bidder showed up to buy the airline for a paltry Rs10bn for a 60pc stake in the company, against the asking price of Rs85bn. Undoubtedly, the resumption of flights to profitable European routes is being seen as a recovery point for the air carrier and may lead many to call for cancelling plans to sell it off and turn it around by investing in EU operations under a new management.

Similar efforts made by successive governments in the last one decade to resurrect PIA have amply exposed the futility of such exercises. There are many, including the incumbent privatisation minister, who have argued that the last attempt to sell the airline was structured in such a way as to scare away potential investors. Many influential leaders of the ruling PML-N are not in favour of disinvesting the airline. But only the naive can expect the reinstatement of European operations to help restore PIA's profitability. The reasons that have brought PIA to this pass are many, and deep-rooted. At best, the new development can only help the government fetch a better response from bidders when the airline is put up for auction again. It is, therefore, advisable that the authorities continue to focus on selling the company rather than investing public money in its fleet to resume its European operations.

#### **Our own PTSD**

#### Muna Khan

Monday December 02, 2024

I am proposing a new ailment unique to Pakistanis: Perpetual-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I am not making light of contrary, I'm asking we the PTI cure us of these recognise how this ailments? PTSD unites us, irrespective of income or political affiliation or even a lack of interest in politics. It requires recognition and then treatment, one of which is mobilising powerful nations to impose change on social media platforms and AI companies' incentives. They will not self-regulate. And I don't want any Pakistani government to regulate them because their solution to everything is to ban it.

In almost two decades, social media has place we (re)connected with to becoming a source of major conflict in families and societies for disinformation. It is an uncontrollable beast that no one can tame.

But this column isn't about the dollarproliferating disinformation industry per se; it is about its impact that, along with a curb on our liberties, is making us ... umm ... ill. We are in a perpetual state of traumatic disorder caused by the uncertainty of when the internet will return to normal, for example. And normal wasn't even that amazing to begin with.

This state of anxiety has reached a perpetual level because we do not get good governance or balanced, fair information from the government or media. Karachi may be a better city at for instance, a combat the moment due to "low AQI no PTI" (thank you One expert replied "vi-Teepu Sahab for this joke carious PTSD is a wellon X) but our stress levels begin when we step enon". The vulnerable out into a crumbling in- are especially suscepfrastructure. Friends in tible. Social media Lahore say the smog is doesn't come with a

Fear rules KP and Balochistan every day. And this is without them turning on screens.

There are plenty of

Who is responsible for this constant form of our situation. On the anxiety? Will banning

studies to show how exposure to TV following mass traumatic events violence, war, natural disasters, disease outbreaks — leads to posttraumatic stress disorder. They can result in health issues like depression, which can be a lifelong issue, says the National Institute of Health. In the last decade, studies show anxiety is heightened among people who use social media more than those who don't. Social media gone from being the is responsible for young peoples' mental health troubles. It is responsible for the increasing

> The trouble is not what we all know. It is a failure to address these issues that causes this in the same manner it perpetual state. No one paid heed to the warning signs like a 2015 study in the UK by Dr Pam Ramsden which suggested that watching gruesome videos and images online at home could lead to the same types of symptoms most associated with combat veterans. Its publication caused a lot of controversy at a time before TikŤok or 'fake news'

polarity in societies the

world over.

was a phenomenon. "How could someone who merely watches events on a screen suffer the same problems as, veteran," asked the BBC. established phenomkilling them. Islamabad is warning, like traditional main in this perpetual state. in some form of media, about harmful -- Courtesy Dawn

lockdown every day. content. In fact, it lures you in knowing the harmful consequences. Unesco said on Thursday that 62 per cent of social media influencers do not verify their con-

You see this play out on our streets every day like the controversy around the number of dead PTI protesters. No one is willing to believe anyone. Also notice how no one is even talking about the documented deaths in Kurram. Our PTSD is also selective.

The trouble is we are left to fend for ourselves in the ab--sence of adequate services, from utility to health to information. We have limited access to resources to help us. A two-day wellness festival in Karachi offers lots of options to help you deal with a number of issues — if you can afford it. Imagine if this was offered as a national ser-

For that, you'd the studies documenting need to have a government which prioritises the healthcare industry spends locking up dissi-

Imagine living in a country where you feel cared for, secure knowing that a lockdown won't deprive you of access to essentials. Of equal import is knowing the information you receive is fair, accurate and responsible. People are turning to social media because traditional media has over the years eroded public trust. The last few months have shown us the violent consequences of disinformation campaigns. Maybe, they can be the wake-up call for journalists to unite and come up with strategies to win back public trust. I am hopeful people will return to news outlets because social media will trick them and fail them. Until then though, I fear we will re-

#### Water deficit

#### Naseer Memon

water productivity, our planners are obsessed with building new reservoirs and expanding irrigated areas. The reason? More structures mean more money. Barring the wet monsoon years, the Indus basin frequently end-ures water scarcity. For the last 25 years, the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has declared water shortages every year and has not allocated water shares as enshrined in the 1991 Water Apportionment

Accord. questioned the water the Cholistan irrigation scheme issued by Irsa early this year. In its summary to the Council of Common Interests, Sindh argued that Irsa's own water accounts (1999-2023) reveal that Punjab and Sindh have experienced annual water shortages of 13.7 per cent and 19.4pc respec-The water availabil-

ity data presented by Punjab before Irsa was misleading. It left out the amount of water committed for some existing and future needs thus creating an impression of surplus water availability. It also failed to mention several current and future possible reductions. These reductions relate to the eastern river flows (2.98 MAF), India's use of the western rivers (2 MAF), the possible use Kabul river (0.5 MAF), the overestimation of water supplies in the water accord (a shortfall of 21.5 MAF), Bhasha dam storage (6.4 MAF), Mohmand dam (0.88 MAF), Nai Gaj dam (0.16 MAF), Kurram Tangi dam (0.9 MAF), flood caincluding the Kachhi, Rainee, Greater Thal, Jalalpur and the Pat Feeder extension (3.34)

MAF), the minimum out-Rather than augmenting flow to the sea (8.6 MAF) and the LBOD reclama-

tion supplies (2.2 MAF). Put together, these requirements mean 50.65 MAF water every year. This amount dwarfs the purported surplus flow by a wide margin. From 1999 to 2023, the average annual flow below Kotri Barrage remained 14 MAF. Altogether, there is a colossal annual deficit of 36.63 MAF water in the Indus basin.

Various reports indicate a bleak picture of future river flows due to the impact of climate Sindh has thus change. The chairman of the National Disaster recently shared worrying data at a moot. He revealed that the country's snow cover has decreased by 23.3pc in recent years.

ciers are melting at an alarming rate of 3pc evloss of 16pc of the glafive years. He warned that while the melting glaciers might result in temporary water surpluses, the long-term implications were dire.

tipping point, planning a sprawling irrigation web for corporate farming is an impractical venture. The Greater Cholistan scheme entails the building of three dams on the enormous land mass Chenab river. These include the Chiniot dam, the Mid Ranjha dam and by Afghanistan of the the Shah Jiwana dam, which will collectively store 3.5 MAF of water.

The scheme also entails the construction of two barrages — the water supply is possible Bahawal Nagar and only through perennial Hasilpur barrages on the Sutle river. Ad-ditionally, the scheme involves the kilometre-long Chiniot-Hasilpur link canal with a capacity of 15,000 cusecs and two fe--eder canals with a ca-MAF), the Chashma pacity of 8,500 and 5,500 of new command areas.

Right Bank canal (1.19 cusecs. The Greater Cholistan sche--me is designed to irrigate a command area of over 6m acres. If we add the 1.2m acres to be irrigated through the Smaller Cholistan scheme, the ambitious proposition would require even larger quantities of water.

Overall, the scope of corporate agriculture not confined to Cholistan. In August, during a session of the National Assembly, the minister for food security, Rana Ta--nveer Hussain, rev-ealed that, under the Green Pakis-tan Initia--tive, 4.8m acres of barren land had been earmarked availability certificate for Management Authority across the country for corporate farming.

> Since corporate agriculture proj-e-cts are being desig-ned to produce grain for international trade, a reliable He said that the gla- commodity supply is essential. This translates to the need for reliable waery year, resulting in the ter supplies to sustain corporate farming. Accial mass over the past cording to a media report last month, Pakistan is seeking up to \$6 billion in investment from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain over the next three to five years With the cryosphere for corporate farming, touching a precarious with the aim of cultivating 1.5m acres of previously unfarmed land and mechanising the existing 50m acres of agricultural land across the country.

Cultivating such an would require a massive irrigation network. Such an extensive infrastructure and investment of several billion dollars cannot be left at the mercy of erratic flood flows. An uninterrupted rivers and canals Punjab's own share of water is already committed for existing canals. Therefore, it makes sense when Sindh, the lower riparian expresses concern at the development

# Commerce News

#### Shaza Fatima pledges to revamp Internet infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecoms Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday pledged to revamp the country's internet infrastructure. vowing to restore optimal internet speeds and bolster the telecom sector's infrastructure.

"My ministry is leaving no stone unturned to ensure seamless continuity in the industry. The recent surge in cyber attacks has put us on high alert and we are taking swift and decisive action to address these challenges and fortify our digital defenses," she said in an Interview with a private news channel.

Fatima Shaza Khawaja also reaffirmed government's commitment for protecting IT and Telecom industry. citing it as a top priority. To achieve this goal, the Authority (PTA) for government is upgrading

existing systems and acknowledged including enhancing tower assured intensity, broadening government is diligently broadband internet access and tackling pressing cybersecurity concerns to provide better coverage, ensure a secure online provide environment for citizens, she added.

the Ministry of Interior will instruct the Pakistan Telecommunication videos while ensuring overall 100% internet speed remains unaffected.

The minister revealed that in the event of any issues, the Interior Telecommunication

assistance.

She

focusing on key areas, challenges exist, but that working to addressthem.

every citizen has the right to express their opinions boost economic growth and and while digital platforms opportunities for selfexpression. their Responding to a temporary unavailability query, the minister said that does not stifle citizens' freedom of speech.

She emphasized that

Responding another query, the minister Authority (PTA) to probe stated that the government and resolve issues faced by is currently upgrading its citizens when sending web management system, with a focus on enhancing cybersecurity measures to effectively counter and control cyber attacks and

terrorist activities. The minister also Minister reaches out to the announced that the P a k i s t a n government plans to expand 4G and 5G internet services across Pakistan by

#### April. Agri. dept achieves surplus wheat sowing

in Lodhran dist LODHRAN (APP): The agriculture department has achieved a surplus wheat sowing target as wheat was sown over 398,000 acres of land against the set target of 396,000 acres for district Lodhran this year. Talking to APP here on Sunday, Deputy Director Agriculture Malik Zafar Director said that wheat sowing of 'Grow More Wheat' campaign remained successful.He said the teams of department were present in the field to guide and motivate farmers for maximum sowing to

He informed that 16.5 million acres wheat sowing target was set for Punjab province during the current year. The agriculture official further informed that the provincial government.

meet food security in

the country.



in Annual Christmas Market under the auspices of the German embassy in Islamabad at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

# Diversification vital for growth: Iftikhar Malik

Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President of the international Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that diversification of economic activities across various sectors including technology, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare,

manufacturing can shield Pakistan from the uncertainties of global In a statement issued

can prove to be a pivotal strategy for sustainable growth and resilience. He said in today's interconnected world, economies are increasingly

economy, diversification

interdependent. "By investing in diverse sectors, we can mitigate risks associated with economic downturns in here on Sunday, he said as specific industries," he inventions.

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Pakistan continues to added. He said more over navigate the complexities diversification fosters innovation entrepreneurship. Encouraging a wide range

of industries not only creates job opportunities but also nurtures a culture creativity adaptability, adding that innovation is a driving force behind economic progress, and diverse industries provide a fertile ground for new ideas and

#### 'FDI in corporate farming vital for food security'

of Pakistan Chamber of improve agricultural and Commerce and Industry's Shahid Imran, emphasised the importance of foreign direct investment (FDI) in corporate farming as a means to counter food and Indonesia, where insecurity and meet the public-private population's staple food Talking to a delegation

of progressive farmers led by Chaudhry Shaheer Asif Arain from Sahiwal, here on Sunday, he underscored the critical need for FDI to bolster Pakistan's agriculture sector and foreign exchange reserves.

Pakistan requires substantial

(APP): investment to bridge its Convener of the Federation current investment gap, industrial production, Regional Standing create jobs, increase Committee on Food, exports, and generate additional tax revenues," he stated

> He cited examples from countries like India partnerships with foreign collaborators enhanced production of highyielding seeds.

These partnerships circumvent the lengthy process of developing new cultivars while ensuring affordable access to highyield seeds, ultimately boosting crop productivity foreign and farm incomes



ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying seasonal fruits to attract the customers at Sunday Bazaar,

# WFP in partnership with govt ensures people have access to safe, health food: Ms Coco

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Food Program Country Director Ms Coco Ushiyama has said that the WFP collaboration with the government and other partners is working to ensure that people have access to safe and healthy

food.

"Access to nutritious and affordable food remains a critical issue in Pakistan, especially in rural and underserved areas and the World Food Program (WFP) is working to address these challenges, focusing on accessibility

affordability as part of its broader efforts to support the fundamental right to food," she told APP in an interview.

organization's work, she said WFP's approach is rooted in partnerships and by joining forces with organizations like the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP works on both policy and

community levels. This includes contributing to food

policy discussions and advocating for stronger social protection systems, she said, adding that at the community level, WFP collaborates with local Elaborating on her governments to ensure that people have access to safe, nutritious food.

> She said that one of WFP's key initiatives is the Benazir Nashonuma Program—a nationwide effort to prevent stunting.

She said this program combines health and nutrition services to support mothers and children, especially those security and nutrition adding that through this development, she added.

promising results in tackling stunting and improving nutritional outcomes. WFP is also working on school meal programs and has recently Balochistan, she said, adding that this program provides schoolchildren with locally grown, nutritious meals, improving their health and supporting

initiative, WFP is seeing

launched a new initiative in their education. These meals not only keep children in school but also enhance their ability to learn, contributing to longunder two years old, term human capital

WFP brings decades of experience in school meal programmes. implemented in over 100 countries. These initiatives are effective in increasing school attendance. retention, and learning outcomes. The impact goes beyond education, as better health and nutrition are directly linked to a child's ability to focus and succeed academically.

She said integrating school meals with broader health and hygiene efforts, WFP ensures a comprehensive approach to development.

extend Malaysian visit amid positive response (APP): Lumpur, Saif Ur Rehman. Encouraged by the the delegation leader, shared enthusiastic response from that the group has been Malaysian buyers, a

ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying dry fruit to

attract the customers at Sunday Bazaar,

Pakistani food exporters

delegation of Pakistani Pakistan's diverse and highfood exporters has quality food products, extended their two-week particularly varieties of visit by an additional week to capitalize on the growing interest and

Peshawar Morr.

finalize trade agreements. According to a message received on exceptional in taste," he Sunday from Kuala

successfully showcasing particularly varieties of Nimko, which have garnered significant attention. "By the grace of Allah, Pakistani products meet international standards and remarked

# We must resolve our own issues; no other country or province can do this for us

Governor Kundi chairs 'grand jirga' to restore peace in Kurram

KOHAT (APP): Governor Iftikhar Hussain, PPP peace Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, expressed his commitment to restoring peace in Kurram district and stressed the need for local efforts in resolving the security challenges.

Speaking at a grand jirga of political leaders and tribal elders in Kohat, Kundi said, "I am ready to go to Kurram and sit with the jirga for as many days as they ask. We must resolve our own issues; no other country or province can do this for us.

The grand jirga was attended by various political figures, including Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam, Awami National Party's Mian

LAHORE: Citizens visiting parks on holiday in

PTI leaders at

new heights of

cowardice: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab now have no shame in

Information Minister talking about their Azma Bokhari has said that workers?" She said that

the PTI is hiding its disgrace she added. The media

news and rumours. She said, how Ali Amin Gandapur

"Those who ran away, and Bushra Bi leaving the workers behind, were attacked.

the current leadership of

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) is at the lowest

and infamy behind fake

In a statement, she said

level of cowardice.

Provincial President Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, Jamaat-e-Islami's Professor Ibrahim, Qaumi Watan Party's Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, National Democratic Movement's Bushra Gohar, former Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori, Kohat Mayor Qari Ahmed Ibrahim Pracha, Asif Pracha, Haji Noor Jat, Maulana Abdullah Wahid, and other tribal elders.

Commissioner Kohat, Motasim Billah Shah, moderated the event. Governor Kundi

emphasized the need to end the use of social media to spread hatred and called for identifying the elements responsible for disturbing

He urged public cooperation with security

forces to carry out joint operations aimed at disarming the province. "We cannot bring food and medicine to the area, but I issued instructions to the Red Crescent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide Sher Zaman, Ibn-e-Ali, all possible aid while I was on my Umrah trip," he added.Praising the Kurram Peace Jirga members, Kundi acknowledged the political leadership for coming together despite differing ideologies.

He pointed out that, for the sake of peace and stability in the province, political parties must unite, regardless of

#### Two killed in separate violent incidents in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two people were killed in separate incidents of violence in different areas of Dera Ismail Khan, police said on Sunday.

According details, the first incident took place on Dera-Chashma road where a man was killed by unknown armed men in the limits of Shorkot police station.Amjad son of Muhammad Afzal, a resident of Himmat, reported to police that he along with his two brothers namely Aziz Jlah alias Bugti and Sana Ullah were travelling from Dera city towards their home on a motorcycle when two unknown men riding another bike intercepted them and opened fire. As a result, his brother Aziz Ullah alias Bugti died on the spot. The assailants escaped

from the scene.



#### **KP CM inaugurates** CTD investigation, **Intelligence block**

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief initiatives to enhance Minister of Khyber CTD's capacity. CM Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur praised the Khan Gandapur on Sunday visited the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Headquarters here and inaugurated the newly constructed Investigation

The facility is equipped with state-ofthe-art amenities, including an auditorium, conference rooms, a library, offices, and advanced technological infrastructure.

and Intelligence Block.

During the visit, CM Gandapur received a detailed briefing on the from an average of 1.4 days provincial government's to 25 days.

progress made in forensic labs, with advanced equipment and expert personnel now in place. He said that CTD has

also been provided with bulletproof vehicles, jammers, drones, night vision devices, and thermal guns to effectively seal with terrorists. On the occasion it was said that CTD's significant achievements include a 50 percent increase in convictions and a rise in remand durations

# GCU campus to be inaugurated in Chiniot this month: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): education to materialize development of the Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that GC University campus will be inaugurated in Chiniot this month to provide quality education to people.

Addressing the 8th convocation of FAST University Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus on Sunday, he said that quality education was prerequisite for progress and prosperity. "Therefore, government is the concentrating on the He said that national this facility at doorster provision of quality unity was imperative for the masses, he added.

progress and prosperity," He said that Pakistan

was bestowed with huge resources. "There is immense potential in the country due to which Pakistan remained ahead of India for 40 years in national progress. Now a temporary break occurred in national development but this issue would be resolved very soon," he

Federal Minister for the dream of national country. "We should end our personal vendetta and prefer to national interests", he added.

He said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage as more than 100 million people were living near or below the poverty line. However, the government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sherif will overcome this issue by promoting quality education and providing this facility at doorsteps of

# Harnessing youth potential for nation building

MULTAN (APP): With approximately one third of country's population falling in 15-29 years bracket out of total 64% below 30 years, the coming years will pose serious challenges to governments for harnessing this potential amidst fluctuating economic situation.

As the lesser education and employment opportunities make the youth easily lured by vested interests and extremists to sabotage activities. So, this bulge can only be fruitful if political parties ensure continuity of policies, cordial atmosphere to education and employment and an overall political will for a strong democracy in the

Statistics and findings of experts reveal that out of over 60 million young Pakistanis between 15-29 years of age, a vast majority either is illiterate or left schools and colleges prior to reaching 12th standard with a marginal number out of whom more than half still searching for

of the world, being young in Pakistan is also both exciting and frustrating. The space for young in Pakistani society is vast and full of possibilities if the potential in different sectors of economy is fully exploited. But there are fears as well in view of a major chunk generally being intolerant as recently seen in protests of political

economy is strong enough to absorb new entrants in the labor force. Otherwise, the idle and frustrated youth would raise the incidence of crime, violence and embrace radical political and religious views.

'Our educated youth Like many other parts is mostly zealous in pursuit of career building and excelling in practical life," stated Prof. Anwaar Ahmad Khan, Former head of National Language

Authority.
"They become mature once in practical life and like to be productive, if groomed properly. Earning livelihood and leading a respectable life is and merit in all arena of them contribute directly to always their foremost life.

opportunities amidst growing poverty, they detract from their mission and engage in different unhealthy activities," Prof. Anwar said. "Therefore, we need comprehensive strategies to harness this potential through access to education employment."

Before exploring the

significance of youth involvement in nationbuilding, the challenges of formulating strategies and policies must be addressed. For fostering participation in fruitful activities, we must heed entrepreneurship and youth's demand of justice employment would help

"But, when they have constrained by established have positive impact if limited resources and norms and more open to creative solutions that may lead them to innovative ideas in technology, climate change, education, healthcare and social justice," noted Senior Lawyer Chuadhry Waqas Anjum.

"Democracy also thrives when its citizens especially youth actively engage in political process. But, this needs awareness that emanates from literacy otherwise they can be swayed by any extremist political entity or sectarian factions," he pleaded.

"Empowering them through "Youth are often less development," Waqas said.

# International News

# Syria launches counterattacks in an attempt to halt insurgents' surprise advance

attacking the federation

with mobs does not lead to

an NRO. The real culprits

behind PTI's downfall are

Gandapur and Bushra Bibi,

around the world witnessed

and Bushra Bibi's vehicles

**Monitoring Desk** BEIRUT: The Syrian military rushed in reinforcements and struck Idlib city Sunday in an attempt to push back insurgents from advancing farther after seizing Aleppo and surrounding strategic locations in an adjacent province in a surprise offensive.

The insurgents led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham took over most of Aleppo on Saturday and claimed to have entered the city of Hama. There was no independent confirmation of their claim.

The swift and surprise offensive is a huge embarrassment for Syrian President Bashar Assad and raises questions about his troops' preparedness. It also comes at a time when Assad's allies — Iran and groups it backs and Russia - are preoccupied with their own conflicts.

Turkey, a main backer of Syrian opposition groups, said its diplomatic efforts had failed to stop

Monitoring Desk
BELGRADE: Serbian

President Aleksandar

Vucic pledged on Sunday

his country would help in-

vestigate after an explosion

in Kosovo that disrupted

water supplies and that the

on opposition-held areas in recent weeks. Turkish security officials said a limited offensive by the rebels was planned to stop govcivilians to return, but the offensive expanded as Syrian government forces began to retreat from their

Syrian opposition fighters get on a motorcycle as opposition supporters stand on top of a captured army armoured vehicle in the town of Maarat al-Aleppo, Syria, Saturday the province under their Nov. 30, 2024. (AP Photo/ control. Omar Albam)

positions.

The insurgency, led by Salafi jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and which includes Turkey-backed fighters, launched their offensive on Wednesday with Aleppo and the Idlib countryside, before moving to-

ward Hama province. In Aleppo province, they captured a strategic

Syrian government attacks town that lies on the highway linking Aleppo with

Damascus and the coast.

Rebel commander Col. Hassan Abdulghani said that despite the government ernment attacks and allow counteroffensive, his fighters were making gains in Aleppo. He says they took control of Sheikh Najjar, also known as the Aleppo Industrial City, Aleppo's military academy and the field artillery college. Abdulghani said 65 Syrian troops were taken prisoner in eastern Aleppo. Elsewhere, he said the insurgents advanced in the Idlib Numan, southwest of countryside, putting all of

The United Nations special envoy for Syria said the shock push by the rebels poses a risk to regional security and called on resuming diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. "I have repeata two-pronged attack on edly warned of the risks of escalation in Syria, of the dangers of mere conflict management rather than conflict resolution," Geir Pedersen said in a statement.

Serbia to cooperate in Trump announces lovalist Kash investigation over Kosovo explosion, President Vucic

> of terrorism by Serbia, which Serbia denied. "Finding out the truth is in the best interest of our country," Vucic told reporters on Sunday. "We are ready to share information with everyone even with Pristina.

government there blamed He reiterated that on Belgrade The explosion on Fri-Serbia had nothing to do day evening hit a canal that with the explosion. He also accused Kosovo Prime sends water to Kosovo's two coal-fired power Minister Albin Kurti of using the incident to firm up plants - accounting for most of the country's his grip in the north of the country, where a Serb mapower production. It also jority refuses to recognise caused water supply cuts Pristina institution and in some parts of the counsees Belgrade as their capitry, but there were no

power cuts. The Kosovo govern-The incident inflamed ment has not said why it longstanding tensions bebelieves Serbia was retween Kosovo and Serbia. The Kosovo government called the explosion an act sponsible for the explo-

Patel as choice to lead FBI **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: US president-elect Donald

Trump aims to make loyalist Kash Patel the next director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), he said on Saturday, in a move that would mean replacing the agency's cur-

rent leader. Trump announced the former advisor and Pentagon official, who has been critical of the bureau and is known for his controversial views on a so-called government "deep state" as his choice for the post on his Truth Social net-

The FBI's current director, Christopher Wray, was appointed to a 10year term in 2017, meaning he would either need to step down or be fired.



#### War has no winners, Taiwan president says in visit to Hawaii

**Monitoring Desk** HONOLULU: War has no winners and peace is priceless, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Saturday in Hawaii after visiting a memorial to the attack on Pearl Harbor on a trip to the United States that has

angered Beijing.
Lai is making a sensitive two-day trip to Hawaii that is officially only a stopover on the way to three Pacific island nations that maintain formal ties with Taiwan, which China claims as its territory.

Speaking to members the overseas Taiwan community and Hawaii politicians, including members of Congress Ed Case and Jill Tokuda, Lai referred to his visit to the USS Arizona Memorial earlier in the day and laid a wreath in memory of those who died in the 1941 Japanese attack.

"Our visit to the memorial today in particular reminds us of the importance of ensuring peace. Peace is priceless and war has no winner.

Biden's long-awaited Africa trip to tout a win against China **Monitoring Desk** 

Biden sets off for Angola on Sunday on a trip that will deliver on a promise to visit Africa during his presidency and focus on a major US-backed railway project that aims to divert

critical minerals away from

China. The project, partly funded with a US loan, links the resource-rich Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia to the Angolan port of Lobito on the Atlantic

Ocean, offering a fast and efficient route for exports to the West.

At stake are vast supplies of minerals like copper and cobalt, which are found in Congo and are a key component of batteries and other electronics. China is the top player in Congo, which has become an increasing concern to Washington.

China signed an agreement with Tanzania and Zambia in September to revive a rival railway line to Africa's eastern coast

#### Russia, North Korea agree to boost military ties

**Monitoring Desk** Minister Andrei Belousov met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and agreed to boost military cooperation between the two isolated nations, Pyongyang state media said on Saturday. The United States and South Korea have accused the nuclear-armed North of sending more than 10,000 soldiers to help Russia fight Ukraine, with experts saying Kim is eager to gain advanced technology, and battle experience for his troops, in return.

#### **Ex-defence** minister accuses Israel of ethnic cleansing

**Monitoring Desk** JERUSALEM: Israel's former defence minister Moshe Yaalon on Saturday accused the Israeli army of ethnic cleansing in the Gaza Strip, sparking an outcry in the country.
"The road we are be-

ing led down is conquest, annexation and ethnic cleansing," Yaalon said in an interview on a private TV channel. Pressed on the ethnic cleansing appraisal, he continued: "What is happening there? There is no more Beit Lahia, no more Beit Hanoun, the army intervenes in Jabalia.

#### Gaza, Cairo holds fresh talks with Hamas **Monitoring Desk** Gaza areas of Jabalia, Beit

Israeli strikes kill 15 in

CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 15 Palestinians in Gaza on Sunday, medics said, as Israeli forces kept up bombardments across the enclave and blew up houses on its northern edge. In the central Gaza

camp of Nuseirat, an Israeli airstrike killed six people in a house, and another attack killed three in a home in Gaza City, med-

Two children were killed when a missile hit a fights to stop the faction tent encampment in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, while four other people were killed in an airstrike in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, medics told Reuters.

houses in the northern new operation started.

Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. where Israeli forces have operated since October this

Palestinians Israel's operations on the northern edge of the enclave are part of a plan to clear people out through forced evacuations and bombardments to create a buffer zone – an allegation the army denies.

The military says it has killed hundreds of Hamas militants there as it regrouping almost 14 months since the war in Gaza started.

Hamas's armed wing says it has killed many Is raeli forces in anti-tank rocket and mortar fire at-Residents said the tacks, and in ambushes with military blew up clusters of explosive devices since the

#### Georgian protesters clash with police for a second night after EU talks are suspended

TBILISI: Thousands of demonstrators protesting the Georgian government's decision to suspend negotiations to join the European Union rallied outside the parliament and clashed with police for a second straight night on Friday.

**Monitoring Desk** 

The night before, police used water cannons, pepper spray and tear gas to disperse protesters who took to the streets of Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, after Prime Minister Írakli Kobakhidze of the ruling Georgian Dream party announced the suspension. The interior ministry said it detained 43 people during the protests.

On Friday evening, protesters again swarmed the parliament, with some trying to break the metal gates to the building. Riot police used water cannons to push them away from the building and later moved to force them farther back along the Rustaveli Avenue, the

city's main boulevard. ers used garbage bins and benches to try to build bar-

Clashes between police and protesters also erupted late Friday in the Black Sea port of Batumi. Georgian Dream's dis-

puted victory in the Oct. 26 election, which was widely seen as a referendum on the country's aspirations to join the European Union, has sparked massive demonstrations and led to an opposition boycott of the parliament. The opposition said the vote was rigged under the influence of Russia seeking to keep Georgia in its orbit.

The year will test even the most robust democracies. Read more on what's to come here.

Take a look at the 25 laces where a change in leadership could resonate around the world.

Keep track of the latest AP elections coverage from around the world here.

#### **DPM Dar inaugurates Charity Bazaar at Foreign Office**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday inaugurated the Charity Bazaar organized by the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA). Cultural stalls from various foreign embassies were displayed at the event held at the For-

The Bazaar, aimed at supporting underprivileged communities, brought together diplomats and their families, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of dif-

Speaking at the occasion, the deputy prime minister said that the bazaar provided a great opportunity to the people of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to visit the foreign office and have a glimpse of the rich culture of other countries, through their food and handicrafts, and help in charitable causes being per-

suaded by PFOWA. "Today's bazaar is a captivating blend of diverse cultures and a variety of experiences, fostering harmony and fraternity among different nations," Ishaq

Dar added.

He extended his gratitude to the diplomatic community and the residents in Islamabad for their 'active and colorful participation' in today's event.

"Wonderful to see that every country has done a great demonstration of the culture in their country, the food and different other articles which is a unique experience for the visitors.'

He emphasized that one of the aims of this event was to promote a better understanding of the social, cultural, and economic life of Pakistan. Towards this end, he said PFOWA also arranges various events such as exhibitions, cultural shows, and social meetings.

#### **OPC Punjab official** meets PM in Lahore

Chairperson Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab and Chief Coordinator of International Affairs, Barrister Amjad Malik, held a special meeting with Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore.

During the meeting, Barrister Malik congratulated the Prime Minister for his tireless efforts in restoring investor confidence and reviving the national economy. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Barrister Amiad Malik on assuming the position of Vice Chairperson of OPC Punjab and emphasized that the federal and provincial governments would work together to resolve the issues faced by overseas Pakistanis.

Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated that very dear to him, and the different

LAHORE (APP): Vice appointments in the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, Overseas Pakistani Foundation and the Overseas Commission serve as evidence government's commitment to addressing the problems of overseas Pakistanis. He also highlighted that with the retreat of disruptive groups, relief efforts for the public will gain further momentum.

Barrister Malik thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and assured him that OPC Punjab and OPF would collaborate to resolve the issues of overseas Pakistanis. He also congratulated the government for stimulating the economy and boosting the stock exchange to new heights. Barrister Malik added that if trials had been conducted promptly for the perpetrators of the May 9 riots, the current overseas Pakistanis are situation would have been

#### Govt. should apply smart city concept in Sindh: Altaf Shakoor

KARACHI (INP): The those resources and reduce the concept of smart cities in Sindh, as modern technology has made it possible to develop our major and secondary cities and towns swiftly, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here

Sunday. He said there are several benefits of smart cities. They have the potential to significantly improve the level of transport available across the city. They improve the ability to better manage traffic, track public transportation and better serve the citizens with consistent information and lower prices.

He said the smart cities ensure efficient public services: with limited amounts of natural resources left to meet people's needs, smart cities will have the technologies and necessary tools to reduce consumption of job opportunities.

etc without subtracting any

Altaf Shakoor said in research show that smart cities, the energy-efficient buildings can improve air quality, use renewable energy sources, and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources

He said people should have access to high-speed internet services at affordable prices and devices, with equal opportunities to access public Wi-Fi in local

He said with the help of smart technology, cities can predict and analytically identify potential areas of infrastructure failure before it happens. These cities provide many business and employment opportunities, as people have equal access to basic resources such as transportation, internet connection, and

#### University of Mirpurkhas paves the way for growth with plans to enhance infrastructure and resources: Vice Chancellor

HYDERABAD (APP): The University of Mirpurkhas, established under the Sindh Assembly Act in 2023, has emerged as a beacon of hope for stu-dents in Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar and nearby underserved areas. The institution aims to provide accessible and quality higher education to local youth, marking a significant milestone in Sindh's educational development.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Rafique Ahmed Memon, in an exclusive interview with APP, highlighted the university's key role in bridging the educational gap in the region. He expressed optimism about receiving support from the Sindh government, local philanthropists and the broader community to transform the university into a leading academic in-

He said that since its establishment, the university has met all constitutional requirements, including the successful organization of its first pre-entry test for admissions on November 24, with assistance million would need to be infrom the Sindh University creased to support its grow-Testing Center, Dr. Memon

expressed confidence that future entry tests would be conducted independently by the university. Currently, the univer-

sity offers ten programs, including BBA, Computer Science, IT, English Literature, Linguistics, Data Science, Education and others. With an initial enrollment of approximately 860 students, the university plans to expand its capacity gradually to meet increasing demand. Dr. Memon acknowledged several challenges facing the institution, including the urgent need for permanent infrastructure, an expanded budget and additional facilities. Despite these hurdles, the university continues to provide students with essential services such as accommodation, transportation and quality education. He added that efforts were underway to acquire land for the university near the Public School Mirpurkhas, which could address infrastructure chal-

lenges. The vice-chancellor

stated that the university's

current budget of PKR 250

ing needs in near future.

Shafqat Shah felicitates people on **Cultural Day** SUKKUR (APP): Prominent Politician Advocate Syed Shafqat Ali Shah on Sunday congratulated the people of Sindh province on the observance of Sindhi Cultural Day and said that the Sindhi culture was one of the fascinating colours of different civilisations and cultures of Pakistan He said the Sindhi Cultural Day was being celebrated to mark the centuries-old beautiful culture and customs of Sindh prov-



per Employees (ITNE) Shahid Mehmood Khokhar meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori

# Political stability imperative for economic growth: Qaiser

FAISALABAD (APP): ing political stability," he Political stability is imperative for economic growth and we must realize a difference between politics and violent protestation, said Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh.

Talking to media persons on Sunday, he said that no decision had been made in the federal cabinet regarding imposing ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) or the imposition of governor's rule in KP. "Such measures have historically proven ineffective in foster-

President, PM

condole death

of Syed Ali

Hassan Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP)

President Asif Ali Zardari

on Sunday expressed deep

grief and sorrow over the

passing away of former

MNA of Pakistan Peoples

Party Makhdoom Syed Ali

Hassan Gilani in a road ac-

cident. The president ex-

tended his condolences to

the family members of the

Peoples Party.

**Indian troops** 

martyr 9

Kashmiris in

**November** 

ISLAMABAD (APP): In-

dian troops in their un-

abated acts of state terror-

ism in Indian illegally occu-

pied Jammu and Kashmir

(IIOJ&K), martyred nine

Kashmiris, including a

woman, in the month of

Media Service, four of

those killed were victims of

fake encounters and custo-

Kashmiris sustained criti-

cal injuries, while 160

people, mostly Hurriyat

activists, were arrested

under draconian laws like

the Public Safety Act

(PSA) and the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act

(UAPA), according to data

released by the Research

Section of KMS. These

injuries and arrests oc-

curred during 196 cordon-

and-search operations and

house raids conducted by

Indian troops across the territory. The killings left

three children orphaned,

and Indian forces damaged

two houses during the op-

erations. Additionally, the

BJP-led Indian government

confiscated and attached 140

properties, including lands,

houses, and shops, using

draconian laws to suppress

the Kashmiri people's po-

ince. He extended his hearti-

est congratulations to the Sindhi brothers and sisters

on the day. "The land of Sufis, Sindh, has been the

place of tolerance and peace for centuries", he added.

litical aspirations.

According to Kashmir

During the month, 12

November.

dial killings.

said and urged political leaders to opt for dialogue as a path to resolve conflicts. He condemned violent

protests as counterproductive for any political party and said that democracy had no room for violent politics. While acknowledging the right to protest, he stressed that demonstrations should not disrupt daily life. The minister highlighted the critical role of political stability in economic growth and said that without stability, Pakistan cannot achieve progress

comparable to its neighboring countries. He urged all political

stakeholders to take a step back to improve the political environment. He emphasized that turmoil often hampered national development whenever the country was on the brink of economic progress. Reflecting

Pakistan's electoral history, Oaiser Sheikh pointed out that controversies had surrounded every election after 1970. He highlighted Chiniot's central position in Punjab and its importance

by the ICC Board to ensure

it is implemented fully. The

PCB had been sticking to its

as a business hub. He expressed concern over Pakistan lagging behind its neighbors despite being a regional economic corridor with vast opportunities for development. He stressed the need of unity among politicians, the judiciary, and institutions and said that political infighting was the root cause of economic decline. It is the time for all stakeholders to prioritize national interests and work towards mutual understanding which is imperative for national progress and prosperity, he added.

#### 'PCB, BCCI agree on hybrid model for Champions Trophy and future ICC tournaments' the plan will have to be given

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board and the Board of Control for Cricket in India have retracted from their earlier stance, agreeing to play their future matches in ICC tournaments on a hybrid model and easing the way for next year's Champions Trophy to be held.

late Syed Ali Hassan Gilani. The two boards held In a press statement issued by the President dialogue on Saturday after the International Cricket House Media Wing, he prayed to Allah Almighty Council had convened a meeting on Friday and came to rest the departed soul in to a consensus on a hybrid eternal peace. He also model for the Feb 19-March prayed for the grant of cour-9 Champions Trophy after age to the bereaved family the Indian government remembers to bear the loss fused to allow its team to with equanimity.

The president lauded travel to Pakistan but the PCB has stressed that it will the services of the late Ali also like the same model to Hassan Gilani to democbe applied for its team when racy and the Pakistan tournaments are held on the

stance of not accepting the hybrid model after the Pakistan team went to India for last year's ODI World Cup. It expected India to do the same for the Champions Trophy — the first ICC tournament in Pakistan since it co-hosted the 1996 ODI World Cup — but has now sounded the BCCI not to expect any future favours. "Yes the past experience is bitter for Pakistan and the ICC has to give a solid guarantee that the hybrid model will be implemented in letter and spirit in future and no Pakistan team will go to India to play any matches of the ICC events and on the same pattern the Indian other side of the border in team will not come to Pakistan" a source in the PCB



HYDERABAD: Pakistan Independent Living Center Leader, Lal Muhammad Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

#### Sindh Cultural day celebrated in Larkana with great enthusiasm

ARKANA (APP): Sindh Culture Day was celebrated with enthusiasm

in Larkana on Sunday. In this regard, a cultural event was organized at Jinnah Bagh Chowk in the city with the joint cooperation of Larkana Press Club and representatives of Sindhi media. It continued till late night, the famous artists of Sindh Shiraz Abbasi, Nawaz Siraj Solangi, Sajjan Mairi, Imam Bakhsh Baloch, Niaz Imrani, Nadir Lashari, Raja Samoo and others bowed their heads

in the cultural event. The ceremony was marked by four moons, on which the youth, old and children danced. In the main ceremony MPA Larkana Jameel Ahmed Soomro, Deputy Larkana Commissioner Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa

SSP Mir Rohal Khan Khoso, District General Secretary of People's Party and Chairman District Council Larkana Ejaz Ahmed Laghari, Bhutto, Mayor Larkana Advocate Anwar Ali Luhar and Including leaders of various political, social, nationalist, business organizations, intellectuals, poets, writers, professors, doctors and personalities associated with different schools of thought participated in large numbers.

PA Larkana Jameel Ahmed Soomro addressed the event. He said today is a cultural Eid for the people of Sindh which started with Sindhi cap and Ajrak, we are happy that we respect our language as well as the language and culture of others



HYDERABAD: Activists of Qaumi Awami Tehreek are holding protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies decisions and amending the Irsa Act and demanding Save Indus River, at Hyderabad press club.

# PTA delays

ban on

unregistered

**VPNs** after

deadline passes ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's telecom regulator has decided not to block unregistered Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) despite an earlier deadline expired on November 30.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had asked businesses, freelancers and information technology (IT) companies to register their VPNs by the end of November to ensure compliance with government regu-

While the original deadline ended on Saturday, officials say there will be an extension, though it remains unclear what the new deadline will be.

In recent years, Pakistan has implemented measures to control online content\_including social media restrictions, drawing criticism from digital rights activists, who argue that such policies suppress free speech and hinder access to

#### Sindh Cultural Day observed across northern Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): The traditional Sindhi Cultural Day was observed across northern Sindh on Sunday.

On this connection, rallies and functions were held in all towns of Sukkur.

Speaking at the event, Spokesperson to the Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Shaikh highlighted the importance of Ajrak and Topi. Speakers said,

'Punjabi, Pashtun Baloch and Urdu speaking are all our brothers and we don't discriminate against anyone".

Deputy Mayor Sukkur Dr Arshad Mughal said, "we are proud to represent our five thousand years of traditions".

On the occasion, people were dressed in traditional Ajrak and festive dresses to promote Sindh's culture.

#### Muqam announces compensation for Parachinar victims

eral Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON, and President of PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam has announced compensation for all victims of recent incidents of violence in Parachinar on behalf of the federal government.

He has directed the Kohat Commissioner to prepare a detailed report on the damages, said a press release issued on Sunday.

Speaking at a grand jirga in Kohat, the minister stressed the importance of Parachinar for the greater good of the country and its people. He expressed con-Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the federal government

PESHAWAR (APP): Fed- over the tragic incidents, praying for the departed souls and the swift recovery of the injured.

Muqam emphasized that the issue transcends politics, urging all stakeholders to unite for a common resolution.

'This is not just a provincial issue; it concerns the entire nation," he said and highlighted his efforts to foster unity, including visits to the Chief Minister's House and collaboration with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister reiterated that lasting solutions can only be achieved through dialogue, not conflict. He promised to personally discuss the compensation packdolences on behalf of Prime age with the prime minister and present the matter to the federal cabinet.



MIRPUR KHAS: The University of Mirpurkhas, established under the Sindh Assembly Act in 2023, has emerged as a beacon of hope for stu-

#### Gandapur rejects Centre's claims of lawlessness, 'ineffective CTD' in KP

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government was blamed for misplacing the law-and-order priorities, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur strongly rejected the Centre's claims of his administration's inability to cope with security challenges and empower Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in the prov-

"The law and order situation has improved in our government," said Gandapur addressing a press conference in Peshawar on Sunday in which he responded to announcing to hand over Prime Minister Shehbaz funds to the CTD person-

PESHAWAR (Agencies): towards the CTD's ineffectiveness to uproot terrorism in the province.

He added that the counterterrorism department was fully functional and carried out "thousands of successful operations against terrorists.

He further detailed that the provincial government will disburse an additional Rs1 billion to the CTD. Special cells have been prepared for the department to keep the ar-

rested suspects, he added.
The KP CM went on to say that his administration was also purchasing 20 bulletproof vehicles besides Sharif's statement pointing nel for 300 kits and drones.

#### Memon for bringing reforms in Pakistan's agriculture sector

HYDERABAD (APP): Memon has stressed the need for bringing reforms in Pakistan's agriculture sector.

In a letter communicated to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, the HCSTSI President urged the formulation of a 25-year comprehensive agricultural policy.

This proposed policy aims to address the impacts of climate change and promote strategic crop planning to ensure sustainable

agricultural development. HYDERABAD (Arr).
The President of In his statement
Hyderabad Chamber of
Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI),

Saleem

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In his statement
Saleem Memon highlighted the significant role of agriculture in Pakistan's economy, contributing 20% economy, contributing 20% to the GDP and providing livelihoods for 40% of the population, However, he pointed out that the sector faces numerous challenges and ignoring these issues could lead to further economic losses.

He identified water scarcity and climate change as the biggest threats to Pakistan's agriculture. This coupled with erratic rainfall patterns, declining soil fertility, and rising temperatures, has severely impacted agricultural productivity.



HYDERABAD: People participating in walk to create awareness on the occasion of World AIDS Day organized by Bridge Consultants Foundation outside Press club.

celebrated today with the this disease, awareness pro-

#### Seminar held to educate people about HIV AIDS in Nawabshah

District Administration, Department Health Shaheed Benazirabad and CDC HIV AIDS Center organized an awareness seminar on the occasion of World AIDS Day at the Darbar Hall of the DC Of-

NAWABSHAH (APP):

Deputy Commis-sioner Shehryar Gul Memon participated in the seminar as the chief guest.

Addressing the semi-nar, Deputy Commissioner Shehryar Gul Memon, District Health Officer Dr Asadullah Dahri, MSPMC Hospital Dr Yar Ali Jamali, District Focal Person for AIDS Dr Riaz Shah, Incharge AIDS Treatment Center Dr Ghulam Qadir Rajput and others said that World AIDS Day is being aim of making the public aware of the precautionary measures to prevent AIDS. He added that HIV AIDS is a curable disease

which, can be prevented from causing further harm by getting regular treatment. They said that there are multiple reasons including repeated use of syringes, blood transfusion without screening, use of non sterilized machinery for operations and dental treatment, while this disease does not spread by shaking hands or sitting together.

Speakers said we have to play a joint role in creating awareness about the harms of HIV/AIDS. Speakers said that in order to cleanse the society from

grams should be conducted in cities and especially in rural areas, to create awareness among the people.
They said that the

Sindh government is working on an emergency basis to eradicate HIV/AIDS and other diseases and treat patients by providing better treatment facilities to patients suffering from this

They quoted that saving the life of one human is saving the life of the entire humanity.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Shehrvar Gul Memon and others distributed certificates of appreciation and medals among the officers and employees who per-